equipment, upgradation of the existing network for improvement in services and active participation in the integrated services network.

Opening of STD services for private companies

†1747. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have opened the STD services for the private companies;

(b) if so, the impact on the financial position of Government companies of the same; and

(c) whether Government have given a consideration on the implication with regard to the internal security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to open the STD Service (long distance service) for private companies.

(b) There is no Government company/companies providing the service and hence the question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Telephones in villages of Madhya Pradesh

1748. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly thirty thousand villages in Madhya Pradesh are without telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, district-wise and

(c) by when telephone facilities are likely to be provided in these villages of the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 25,109 Villages in Madhya Pradesh are without telephone facilities as on 1.4.2000. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.